

PATENT
09/173,040

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview of February 19, 2002. Claims 1, 3 - 6, 8 - 11 and 13 - 28 are pending in the present Application. In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Angiulo et al. in view of Stone et al.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 19, 22 and 25 to better represent the claimed invention. No new matter has been added as the claims, before the amendment, recited the limitations of displaying a document having at least a text file and an image file whereby the text file is being displayed and the image file is being displayed and halting the display of the image file if it is of no interest to a user. By this amendment, Applicants have added the word "independently" in front of halting the display of the image file.

For the reasons stated more fully below, Applicants submit that the claims in the Application are allowable over the applied references. Hence, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

As mentioned in the Application as well as in the Response to the previous Office Action (i.e., the Office Action dated October 3, 2001), image files contain much more data than text files and thus take longer to download and display. In addition, the more complex the image the greater the amount of data needed to represent the image. Hence, it can be very frustrating, when displaying a document containing more than one graphic image of which only one (image) or none may be of interest to a user, for the user to wait for the whole document to be downloaded

AT9-98-132

PATENT
09/173,040

and displayed. Conventional browsers have afforded users the luxury of stopping the download and display of a document by a simple mouse click on a "STOP" button. However, when the stop button is used, the display of the whole document, including all image files and text file, is aborted and not just the images that are not of interest. The present invention provides a mechanism to either suspend or altogether cancel the download and display of graphic images in a document.

In accordance with the teachings of the invention when a text file containing an embedded image file is to be displayed, the display of the image file will be stopped (while the image file is being displayed) if it is of no interest to the user. The capability of displaying only image files of interest to the user greatly reduces the time the user spends waiting for the entire Web page to be displayed.

The invention is set forth in claims of varying scopes of which Claim 1, reproduced immediately below, and Claim 16, reproduced further down below, are illustrative.

1. A method of controlling web browser document displays, **said document being displayed on a display system and having at least a text file and an image file**, said method comprising the steps of:
 displaying said text file on said display system;
 displaying said image file on said display system; and
 independently halting the display of said image file, while said image file is being displayed, if said image file is not of interest to a user. (Emphasis added.)

AT9-98-132

PATENT
09/173,040

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Angiulo et al. in view of Stone et al. (patent #6,101,510). In support of the rejection, the Examiner conceded that Angiulo et al. fail to disclose **halting the display of an image file in a document, while the image file is being displayed** as claimed. However, the Examiner asserted that Stone et al. do disclose the claimed limitations. Therefore, the Examiner reasoned, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Angiulo et al. with those of Stone et al. to arrive at the claimed invention. Applicants have to disagree.

As mentioned in Applicants' previous Response, Stone et al. purport to incorporate Web browser functionalities into application programs. According to Stone et al., a software object called a Web browser control is used to provide Web browser functionalities to the application programs through an application programming interface. One of the functionalities provided is a STOP functionality. The STOP functionality, as disclosed in col. 6, lines 41 - 43, stops any navigational action that might be in progress (i.e., fetching an HTML document). This functionality is further explained in col. 18, lines 7 - 15. There, it is disclosed that when the STOP functionality is invoked, the browser closes all connections to the server. Consequently, when the STOP functionality is invoked, all communications with the server regarding the document are discontinued.

However, Stone et al. do not teach, show or suggest ***displaying a document containing a text file and at least an image file by displaying the text file and the image file and by independently halting the display of the image***

AT9-98-132

PATENT
09/173,040

file, while the image file is being displayed, if the image file is not of interest to a user.

Consequently, combining the teachings of Angiulo et al. with those of Stone et al. does not disclose the claimed invention as the whole document display is stopped not just the displaying of the image file. That is, if the display of the text file in the document has not completed when the STOP functionality is invoked, it too will be stopped.

In the Response to Arguments Section of the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that "halting the display of an image file of a web document while allowing the text file of a document to display as claimed" are not recited in the rejected claims. (Emphasis not added.) Applicants would like to point the Examiner's attention to the claims as a whole, particularly Claim 1. Claim 1 recites the limitations of displaying a web document containing a text file and an image file by displaying the text file and the image file and by halting the display of the image file, if the image file is not of interest to a user. **The claim does not recite the limitations of halting the display of the document, but rather of the image file.** Thus, if only the display of the image file is halted while the display of the document continues, then the display of the text file is not halted since the document is made up of the text file and the image file.

The same argument does toward Claims 16 - 28. Illustrative Claim 16 is reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner.

16. A method of downloading a web document, said document containing a text

AT9-98-132

PATENT
09/173,040

file as well as an image file, said method comprising the steps of:

downloading and displaying said document; and

independently stopping, while said document is being downloaded, the download of said image file if said image file is not of interest to a user. (Emphasis added.)

The claims specifically recite the limitations of downloading and displaying a web document which contains a text file and an image file and that while the document is being downloaded, the image file is stopped if the image file is not of interest to a user. Again, it is not the download of the document that is stopped but rather the download of the image file in the document. Thus, the download of the other file in the document is not stopped. Neither references, alone or in combination, shows, teaches or even suggests such limitations.

Hence, Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable over the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are once more respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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AT9-98-132

PATENT
09/173,040

ATTACHMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice amended) A method of controlling web browser document displays, said document being displayed on a display system by a user and having at least a text file and an image file, said method comprising the steps of:

displaying said text file on said display system;

displaying said image file on said display system; and

independently halting the display of said image file, while said image file is being displayed, if said image file is not of interest to [a] the user.

6. (Twice amended) An apparatus for controlling web browser document displays, said document being displayed on a display system by a user and having at least a text file and an image file, said apparatus comprising:

means for displaying said text file on said display system;

means for displaying said image file on said display system; and

means for independently halting the display of the image file, while the image file is being displayed, if the image file is not of interest to [a] the user.

AT9-98-132

PATENT
09/173,040

11. (Twice amended) A computer program product on a computer readable medium having computer program code means for controlling web browser document displays, said document being displayed on a display system by a user and having at least a text file and an image file, said apparatus comprising:

computer program code means for displaying said text file on said display system;

computer program code means for displaying said image file on said display system; and

computer program code means for independently halting the display of the image file, while the image file is being displayed, if the image is not of interest to [a] the user.

16. (Amended) A method of downloading a web document, said document containing a text file as well as an image file, said method comprising the steps of:

downloading and displaying said document; and

independently stopping, while said document is being downloaded, the download of said image file if said image file is not of interest to a user.

19. (Amended) A computer program product on a computer readable medium for downloading a web document, said

AT9-98-132

PATENT
09/173,040

document containing a text file as well as an image file, said computer program product method comprising:

code means for downloading and displaying said document; and

code means for independently stopping, while said document is being downloaded, the download of said image file if said image file is not of interest to a user.

22. (Amended) An apparatus for downloading a web document, said document containing a text file as well as an image file, said apparatus comprising:

means for downloading and displaying said document; and

means for independently stopping, while said document is being downloaded, the download of said image file if said image file is not of interest to a user.

25. (Amended) A computer system for downloading a web document, said document containing a text file as well as an image file, said computer system comprising:

at least one memory device for storing code data; and

at least one processor for processing said code data to download and display said document, and to independently stop, while said document is being

AT9-98-132

PATENT
09/173,040

downloaded, the download of said image file if said
image file is not of interest to a user.

AT9-98-132